

REMARKS

In the Official Action of July 1, 2003, the Examiner required an election under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 among two allegedly distinct inventions, namely:

Group I, referring to claims 1-6, drawn to an onscreen display control of connected video/audio equipment and respective power status; and

Group II, referring to claims 7-10, drawn to the detection of a connecting state of audio/video equipment and the subsequent provision of power accordingly.

The Examiner has contended that the inventions of Groups I and II lack a common special technical feature. Furthermore, the Examiner has contended that the inventions of Groups I and II are distinct because the onscreen display control of video/audio equipment and the detection of a connecting state of video/audio equipment and the subsequent provision of power are each individually usable in operating video/audio equipment.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant hereby elects the invention of Group I, claims 1-6, for further prosecution in this application. Accordingly, claims 7-10 stand withdrawn from further consideration in the present application, without prejudice to applicant's right to file a divisional application directed thereto.

Application No.: 09/856,233

Docket No.: SONYSU 3.3-127

No fee is believed necessary for this response. However, if the Examiner believes a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: August 1, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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